

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### 33<sup>rd</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Forum in Geneva 1-5 April 2019 was a great success with the launch of some new, interesting projects. Three conferences were well attended on [Latest technology trends impacting eBusiness...](#), [Expanding the horizons of MSMEs in International Trade...](#) and [Harmonizing Accounting and Audit standards...](#) All of the relevant presentations for each of these events are available on their respective pages; all other presentations during the Forum are available on the [33<sup>rd</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum website](#).

### 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN/CEFACT Plenary

The 25<sup>th</sup> Session was held on 8-9 April 2019 in Geneva; we would like to thank all of the Heads of Delegation who made the effort to attend. All presentations and documents are available on the [Plenary webpage](#). Two new recommendations were approved: [Recommendation 37 on Single Submission Portals](#) and [Recommendation 43 on Sustainable Procurement](#). Both Blockchain [White Paper 1](#) and [White Paper 2](#) as well as a [White Paper on Smart Containers](#) and a [Green Paper on Sustainable Tourism](#) were presented.

It was also discussed and agreed during this meeting to renew the mandate of the Advisory Group on UN/LOCODE and the [Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries](#). A new [Advisory Group on Advanced Technologies in Trade and Logistics](#) was also put forward and approved. These groups will be confirmed after consideration by the UNECE Executive Committee.

The New [UN/CEFACT Programme of Work 2019-2020](#) was also approved during the Plenary, pending confirmation by the UNECE Executive Committee. This cornerstone document is extremely important as all work within UN/CEFACT must be covered by this document. A few evolutions worth noting in this document is the possibility for project teams to develop standardized Application Programming Interfaces (APIs); this is a major step towards helping programmers to adopt our standards in a standard way. Another key evolution is a reinforcement of our activities with new technologies. Blockchain, Internet of Things... are clearly mentioned and will allow teams to propose standards compatible with these technologies. Of course, the pillars of UN/CEFACT such as the Core Component Library, UN/EDIFACT, the code lists, our recommendations and the work in each specific domain area are also covered in this document.

For more information, the full report of the Plenary is available [on the website](#).

### Domain coordinators

The network of Domain Coordinators within UN/CEFACT have played a key role in the success of our events and projects, assisting Bureau members and project teams. The Bureau greatly appreciates this dedication and has decided to prolong the current Domain Coordinators in their role until Spring 2020.

### Heads of Delegation

We are happy to welcome several new Heads of Delegation for the following countries: Finland, Russian Federation, Republic of Congo, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. As you all know, HoDs play a key role in the success of UN/CEFACT, supporting the start of projects, approving expert registration requests and reviewing all work at the Plenary sessions. Some expert registration requests and project support requests have been going unanswered; we would very much appreciate rapid responses to these requests even if to say that it is under consideration and you'll get back soon, or that sorry, you won't bring your support. We would like to remind that according to our procedures, this support does not engage the delegation in any way.

### New standards page

We have published a new streamlined version of our business standards on the website with the end user in mind, aiming to provide all of the information that an implementer will require to use the standards. It is still work in progress. See: <http://www.unece.org/uncefact/mainstandards.html>

### Upcoming events

The next **34<sup>th</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum is scheduled for the week of 28 October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 in London**, graciously hosted by our sister organization, the International Maritime Organization.

## UN/CEFACT ACTIVE PROJECTS

*The following projects are currently active as of November 2018 within UN/CEFACT; participation in their development is welcome. Your assistance as Head of Delegation / Mission in Geneva to suggest experts for these projects is most welcome.*

**ITPD – [Integrated Services for MSMEs to International Trade \(ISMIT\)](#)** aims to provide guidance on how best to assist MSMEs approach international trade markets. Project soon to finalize.

**ITPD – [Readiness for emergency relief importation](#)** project is being done jointly with [UN OCHA](#) to provide guidance on measures to be taken to facilitate importation of emergency relief items.

**SWD – [Revision of Recommendation 33](#)** aims to update the guidance within Rec33 while maintaining the core aspects of its original version. Should be in Public Review before the end of the summer.

**SWD – [Core Principles for Operation of Single Window](#)** is exploring the essential role of Single Windows in an economy and the potential risks that could disrupt the system. Will resume shortly.

**ISCO – [Canonical Model](#)** project assists in harmonizing processes and choreographies of data exchange.

**SC+P – [Cross Industry Invoice BRS Repository](#)** is establishing a template and a repository of implementation models of the UN/CEFACT CII standard. Project resuming after a short break.

**SC+P – [Cross Industry Delivery](#)** project aims to update the existing standard. Soon for Public Review.

**F+P – [Purchase Order Financing Request](#)** shall create a technical standard for this type of financing option for trading parties.

**A+A – [Accounting and Audit Reference Data Model](#)** will propose a harmonized data set across multiple standards in this field.

**T+L – [Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Data Model](#)** (RDM) shall create an overarching RDM that will ensure the compliance and harmonization of Supply Chain and Transport RDMs. Project nearing completion.

**T+L – [IMO FAL Mapping](#)** project shall create an XML version of the FAL messages which have traditionally been transmitted through UN/EDIFACT messages, in support of the IMO FAL updates.

**T+L – [Smart Containers](#)** is a project that is looking at how an Internet of Things (IoT) device on a container can communicate with the rest of the supply chain. There are monthly conference calls.

**T+L – [Pipeline Data Carrier](#)** follows up on several EU projects seeking to capture data earlier in the transaction ensuring reliability. White Paper has been finalized. There are monthly conference calls.

**T+L – [Revision of Recommendation 16 on UN/LOCODE](#)** has just been launched and aims to update the guidance of Rec16 in coordination with the UN/LOCODE Advisory Group. Soon for Public Review.

**T+L – [Cross Industry Supply Chain Track and Trace](#)** project is proposing a general standard for physical track and trace of assets, compatible with all existing Supply Chain and T+L standards. [This project is seeking 3 HoD support.](#)

**INS – [Healthcare Reimbursement Claim](#)** will produce the required messages and structures between health care providers and private insurance. [This project is still seeking its 3 HoD support.](#)

**eGOV – [Blockchain project](#)** is finalizing the sectoral opportunities and use cases..

**eGOV – [Cross border inter-ledger exchange for Preferential CoO using Blockchain](#)** project is proposing to develop guidance and standards for inter-ledger exchanges.

**eGOV – [Internet of Things for Trade Facilitation](#)** project will prepare two White Paper to describe the base principles of this technology and the potential need for standards.

**ENV – [Waste Management and Waste Analysis](#)** aims to define electronic data formats for waste management related data such as analysis results, physical and chemical properties, hazardousness...

**T+T – [Business Standards for Sustainable Tourism](#)** project builds upon the Green Paper on Sustainable Tourism and shall produce definitions standards and guidelines on the topic.

**T+T – [Destination Travel Information](#)** project is working on the technical information on the subject.

**AGRI – [eCert Implementation Guide](#)** project will create a guidance document to assist countries to implement this cornerstone standard.

**AGRI – [Sustainable Textile and Leather Traceability and Transparency](#)** will produce a recommendation and electronic standards to enable sustainable value chains in this sector.

**M+T – [Header Envelope](#)** project is processing its Public Review comments and will soon take next steps.

**M+T – [Message Construction Guideline](#)** project shall explain how to design an XML user message using MA, MBIE and QDT under the rules of CCTS, CCBDA and NDR.